the sugar industry. Last year, it is I.S.G.I.E.I.C. which exported sugar. The same policy continues. Whatever sugar is to be exported this year, the decision is to export it through I.S.G.I. .EI.C.

It is true that individual sugar mils have asked for permission to export sugar. But no decision has been taken to permit individual sugar mils to export.

SHRI SOBHANADREEWARA RAO VADDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know form the hon. Minister in view of the fact that there is lot of price differential in respect of coarge grains and eggs especially in the Gulf countries, what steps the Government is taking for export of more coarse grains to have more foreign exchange. Some of the Asian countries are taking advantage of the requirements of he developed countries inspect of these coarse grains which are produced by the dryland farmers. I seek information from the hon. Minister what concrete measures he is taking for export of coarse grains and eggs.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: As my colleague has said, as far as cereals are concerned, as far as food products are concerned, we will not export, unless there is a clear exportable surplus. I do not think that we have an exportable surplus in coarse grains. If the Ministry of Agriculture tells me that there is an exportable surplus in coarse grains, then we will export coarse grains. But I do not think we have reached that stage yet.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Export of Fruits to Gulf Countries

*539 SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of fruits, particularly banana, exported to Gulf countries during the last three years;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the export of fruits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b): The desired information is as under:-

Qty. In MT
Val: Rs. Lakhs

	1988-89		*1989-90*		*1990-91*	
	Qty.	*Val.*	*Qty.*	*Val.*	*Qty.*	*Val.*
Banana	121	8	348	18	23	3
Other Fruits	30114	3133	22843	2681	32209	4130
Total:	30235	3141	23191	2699	32232	4133

(c) Government accords high priority to exports of fruits. It has taken several steps to promote these. Promotional Bodies such as Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APFDA), National Horticulture Board and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) have all been mobilised to promote exports of fruits. APEDA which is specifically charged with the respon-

sibility of promoting exports of fruits has various schemes for market development, product promotion, quality upgradation, improvement in packaging, arranging Buyer-Seller meets, participation in International Trade Fairs etc. A major constraints in the expansion of export of fruits has been lack of sufficient infrastructural facilities. It has already been decided to pay special attention to this aspect during the 8th Plan period.

[*Translation*]

Landless Agricultural Labourers

*540 SHRI KESRI LAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to bring landless agricultural laborer and labourers of the unorganised sector under the group insurance scheme;

(b) the details of the funds allocated therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government have provided financial assistance to the State Governments for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details of the assistance provided during the last one year, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government so far to make this scheme popular and effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH)): (a) to (d) A Group Insurance Scheme for landless agricultural labourers was introduced by the Government of India on the 15th August, 1987 to cover all the heads of the landless agricultural labourers families between the ages of 18 and 60 for a sum assured of Rs. 1,000/- (since revised to Rs. 2,000/-). This scheme which was initially financed by the Central Government is now being financed by the LIC from the Social Security Fund with effect from the 1st April, 1990. Under this scheme, the entire annual premium cost is borne by the LIC.

The Life Insurance Corporation of India has also set up a Social Security Fund with an initial corpus of Rs. 100 Crores and formulated various Group Insurance Schemes to cover the labourers of the unorganised sector. 50% of the premium is payable by the beneficiary and the balance 50% is met out of the Social Security Fund. The Scheme envisages payment of Rs. 3,000/- to the legal heirs of the insured on the normal death of the member of the Scheme and Rs. 6,000/- in case of an accidental death. The workers under various occupations covered under these schemes include Beedi Workers, Carpenters, handloom weavers, rikshaw pullers, fishermen, Safai Karmancharis, forest workers etc. Since these schemes are financed from out of the Social Security Fund with the beneficiary bearing 50% of the premium cost , the question of giving assistance to the State Government does not arise.

(e) The LIC has put up wall paintings, holdings, posters etc. in many rural areas to give adequate publicity to these Schemes. State Government agencies also take interest in publicising details of these Schemes through their machinery. Committees have also been constituted at various levels consisting of the representatives from the LIC and the State Government to coordinate activities for better results. The month of October every year is observed as Social Security Month and intensive publicity efforts are made to spread details of these Schemes, in rural areas.